

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed on April 2, 2003. Claims 1-9 are pending in the application with Claim 1 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by the amendments.

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,217,531 B1 issued to Reitmajer on April 17, 2001 ("Reitmajer").

Claim 1 has been amended in a manner which is believed to better define Applicants' invention and to overcome the rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to recite "An electrode arrangement for generating shock waves by electrical discharging between electrode tips, characterized in that at least one of the electrode tips (12, 13) can be replaceable arranged in an associated electrode holder (14, 15), the electrode tip and the electrode holder being provided with corresponding fitting contours so as to achieve mutual locking without threading the electrode tip to the electrode holder." (Emphasis added)

Reitmajer does not disclose or suggest at least the newly added limitations to Claim 1. Reitmajer discloses an electrode assembly 100 having an inner electrode 305 with a threaded end 307 and an outer electrode 310. The inner electrode 305 is threaded to an inner conductor 205 via the threaded end 307. The outer electrode 310 is supported by outer electrode cage members 312, each of which includes a hook 313 that is formed at a generally right angle to the cage member 312. The outer electrode 310 does not have a corresponding fitting contour with the electrode assembly 100. See col. 4, lines 24-54

and FIGS. 1A-1C. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and allowance of Claim 1 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6-9 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are believed to contain patentable subject matter. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and allowance of Claims 2-4 and 6-9 are respectfully requested.

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,217,531 B1 over Reitmajer in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0032380 published on March 14, 2002 to Acker et al. ("Acker et al.").

Claim 5 depends from Claim 1, and therefore includes the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, for the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claim 5 is believed to contain patentable subject matter. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance of Claim 5 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-9, are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

Attached hereto and identified as VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE is a copy of amended Claim 1 detailing the amendments made thereto.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call John Vodopia, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9627.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George Likourezos".

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) An electrode arrangement for generating shock waves by electrical discharging between electrode tips, characterized in that at least one of the electrode tips (12, 13) can be replaceable/arranged in an associated electrode holder (14, 15), the electrode tip and the electrode holder being provided with corresponding fitting contours so as to achieve mutual locking without threading the electrode tip to the electrode holder.